Interreg NEXT Romania – Ukraine

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SMS RO-UA ROUA00136

DEVELOPMENT OF SCREENING AND MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR EMERGING DISEASES AND PREVENTION OF CROSS-BORDER EPIDEMICS IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT



Newsletter 6 - Stage 1: Synthetic Description of Samples Collected and Analysed in Romania

During the first sampling campaign performed by the **Veterinary Sanitary and Food Safety Directorate of Tulcea**, both field and laboratory activities were conducted in accordance with the methodology established within the project ROUA00136 and with the WOAH standards applicable to each investigated disease.

African Swine Fever (ASF) Analysis

For ASF, the campaign targeted samples obtained primarily from hybrids between wild boars and domestic pigs, which are directly exposed to the risk of contact with wildlife. The collected specimens included blood samples taken on EDTA, as well as blood samples collected using an anticoagulant.

The testing methods applied consisted of Real-Time PCR for the detection of the viral MATRIX protein and ELISA for the detection of specific antiviral antibodies, in compliance with the WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests.

Out of the total of 50 samples planned, 21 samples were collected and processed for RT-PCR, and 21 samples for ELISA, originating from domestic pigs and mixed-breed specimens. Additionally, the collection of potential vector insects (ticks, mosquitoes, etc.) was foreseen, with an upper limit of 10 samples, depending on field availability.

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Avian Influenza (AIV) Analysis

In the case of AIV, sampling activities covered both domestic and wild birds. The specimen types included cloacal and tracheal swabs, blood collected on EDTA, and organs harvested from cadavers. Laboratory testing was performed using Real-Time PCR and ELISA, following WOAH standards.

From the planned maximum of 100 samples, 2 samples from wild birds and 66 samples from domestic birds were analysed by RT-PCR, while 54 samples from domestic birds were tested by ELISA.

Leptospirosis and West Nile Virus (WNV) Analysis

For Leptospirosis and WNV, sampling focused on epidemiologically relevant species, including dogs, cattle, and other mammals in contact with wildlife. Serological screening was performed by ELISA, while the detection of active infections was carried out using RT-PCR, in line with WOAH recommendations.

Within the campaign, 6 dog samples (WNV), 40 cattle samples (Leptospirosis + WNV), and 18 cattle samples (WNV) were analysed by ELISA. For PCR confirmation, 6 dog samples (Leptospirosis + WNV) and 9 cattle samples (Leptospirosis + WNV) were processed.

The activities carried out by Veterinary Sanitary and Food Safety Directorate of Tulcea during Campaign 1 contribute significantly to the assessment of the epidemiological situation in the Danube Delta region and to the development of the common Romania–Ukraine cross-border monitoring system.

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